

AZ Insider: Honeymooners' Rings Missing

Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket

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"The AZ Insider" with Kathy Shayna Shocket: Get the inside scoop on Arizona's social scene and celebrity news.



This week: While diving with the sharks, these newlyweds' rings disappeared from their hotel room...

Mark and Lonni Abromovitz's wedding was beautiful. The InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa in Paradise Valley. Family and friends. You know, the perfect day for a couple in love. A new beginning. The honeymoon plans were just as dreamy. London. Paris. Cape Town, South Africa and a three-day safari.



Lonni and Mark are pictured above on their safari-- only a part of the adventurous honeymoon.

But there were a few challenges to this fairy tale getaway. Lonni's engagement ring and both of their wedding rings mysteriously disappeared from their ultra luxury hotel room at the One & Only Resort Cape Town.

Despite the anguish from the disappearing wedding rings, they tried not to let it "rob" them of the trip of their life. That, by the way, says a lot about their love for each other.

The couple discovered their rings missing the morning they returned from their shark diving adventure in Cape Town. Shark diving? Yes, shark diving with the now famous **Mike Rutzen**, known simply as "**Shark Man**." The newlyweds were in a rush that morning and didn't bother to put on their jewelry to go swimming with the sharks. After all, Lonni says they felt comfortable in the ultra luxurious hotel room. Yes, they were getting ready to go into the deep waters with the great whites and Shark Man. (You may have seen Mike "Shark Man" Rutzen on "60 Minutes" or other national news programs. He believes the great whites are far from mindless killing machines and that they are smart misunderstood predators.)

Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio, Prince Harry and other celebs have trusted Mike "Shark Man" to take them into the deep ocean waters to interact with the sharks.



Lonni and Mark, who chartered the boat, Mike and his crew joined the couple on their honeymoon Cape Town adventure. Mark is pictured above with Shark Man. The waters in Cape Town are home to the world's highest concentration of great whites.

Mark Abromovitz, who also repelled off the side of Table Mountain (it's 1,067m above the world) on the trip, said days prior that it was "one the most amazing experiences of my life." He recalls how the bait was thrown into the water to lure the sharks and how he was lowered into the water inside a cage. He described the scene and said there were a dozen sharks in the water at one time, and three circling the cage.

Lonni, at the last minute, chose to stay on the boat. When they got back from the exotic adventure, their hotel room had been cleaned and the jewelry gone without a trace.

"The hotel did polygraphs on everyone who had been in our room," explains Lonni. "One of the maids failed the lie detector- twice. They said they fired her, but after 45 days of many phone calls, emails, and filling out forms, they only offered us to come back for a three-night stay rather than some type of refund for the seven nights we already spent in the honeymoon suite," she said. "I don't think we'd be flying all the way

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back to South Africa for a three-night stay, or even at that hotel."

Oh, and did I mention that their return flight home from London to Phoenix was canceled and the newlyweds had to stay an extra night in London? "But we looked at it as more time we could spend together," says Lonni of what they will still remember as their wonderful trip of a lifetime.



Kathy Shayna Shocket is a Phoenix based writer. If you have a good item for The AZ Insider, you can email her at redkarpetgirl@aol.com.